

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171103
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY 9052

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PLEASE PASS TO ASST SECY HOLBROOKE ONLY UPON ARRIVAL

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 12269 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK,
CANBERRA, JAKARTA, KUALA LUMPUR, PARIS, MOSCOW, SINGAPORE, VIENTIANE,
CANBERRA, KONG KONG, PEKING, AND CINCPAC HONOLULU DATED
JULY 6, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 12269

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VM, JA

SUBJECT: SRV VICE FONMIN IN TOKYO

REF: TOKYO 12130 (NOTAL)

1. SRV VICE FONMIN PHAN HIEN MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
SONODA FOR ONE HOUR AND WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA
FOR 90 MINUTES JULY 5. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION
HIEN TOOK MODERATE, CONCILIATORY LINE IN BOTH MEETINGS
WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND PRC, AND WAS
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PAGE 02 STATE 171103

RATHER FORTHCOMING ON SUBJECT OF US-SRV NORMALIZATION.
HIGHLIGHTS OF PHAN HIEN'S REMARKS TO PRESS, AND PRESS
REPORTS OF HIEN MEETINGS WITH SONODA AND ARITA, WHICH
APPEAR GENERALLY ACCURATE, INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

2. ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.:
HIEN TOOK POSITION THAT US-SRV NORMALIZATION WOULD BE

BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH SIDES AND FOR REGION, BUT DEGREE TO WHICH THE PROCESS COULD GO FORWARD WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PRIOR CONDITIONS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN LEFT AMBIGUOUS. PRESS REPORTED HIEN AS HAVING REFRAINED FROM CHALLENGING GOJ DESCRIPTIONS OF U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP AS DEFENSIVE IN NATURE. PRESS ALSO CARRIES REPORTS THAT SONODA BRIEFED AMBASSADOR JULY 5.

3. ON PRC:

HIEN DENIED SRV HAD FORCIBLY EXPELLED CHINESE RESIDENTS, AND ASSERTED HANOI ATTACHED UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PRC. HE DENIED THAT SRV HAD PRECIPITATED CONFLICT WITH PRC AND EXPRESSED HOPE PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH "DIALOGUE".

4. ON CAMBODIA:

IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE, SAID HIEN, THAT SRV WOULD SEEK CONFLICT WITH CAMBODIA, WHICH HAD BEEN ITS "LONG-TIME ALLY." SRV WAS READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH PHNOM PENH TO RESOLVE DISPUTE.

5. ON USSR:

SRV ACCESSION TO CEMA REPRESENTED "NATURAL CONSEQUENCE" OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHICH HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE WITH CEMA COUNTRIES. THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON SRV POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY. IN MAINICHI INTERVIEW, HIEN DENIED THAT SRV HAD BECOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 171103

"CAPTIVE" OF SOVIETS, SAID IT HOPED TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND ASSERTED SUMORS THAT RUSSIANS WERE IN CAM RANH WERE TOTALLY GROUNDLESS: "THERE IS NO RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE IN OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVEN'T EVEN SUPPLIED WATER FOR RUSSIANS." MANSFIELD UNQUOTE VANCE

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